

GERMANS LOST HOPE IN 1916

Their Best Troops Had Been Shattered by Terrific Fire of Allies in the West, and What Remained Was of Poor Quality

This is the fifth section of THE NEW YORK HERALD's translation of Capt. H. Ritter's "Review of the World War." Capt. Ritter was attached to the German General Staff.

IN order to prevent the Allies from taking the offensive in the west the German High Command decided on an attack on the Fortresses of Verdun. From a purely strategic standpoint the choice of Verdun as the point of attack was a wise choice. If Verdun was taken the pivotal point was pulled out from the allied front, and the latter would have crumbled.

"At Verdun the permanent works, which could easily be destroyed, were but the framework of the extensive system of fortifications. The chief points of resistance had been transferred to a wide and deep zone of carefully hidden field fortifications. No permanent fort built of masonry and concrete could resist the destructive power of artillery. But faced with an extended territory of field fortifications the attacker had to lay in ruins not only a few hundred square meters, but many square kilometers.

"The German leaders made a mistake in their estimate of the power of resistance of the fortifications of Verdun as well as of the defenders, who were far superior to the defenders of Gorlice or Przemyśl. Because of shortage of ammunition, if for no other causes, the Russian artillery was not able to mete out much punishment to the German infantry, while the French artillery of Verdun poured an unceasing hail of grenades on the Germans.

"With a gigantic attempt at breaking through the German lines the battle of the Somme opened on July 1. Because it had overrated the effect of the German attack on Verdun, the German High Command was much surprised when the French assumed the offensive not only north of the Somme but also south of that river. The battle lasted until the end of August. Many times the Entente had an opportunity to break through the German lines, but their military leaders were not once able to utilize the gaps they had opened.

"In September the battle of the Somme was resumed by the Allies and carried on until December. Dur-

ing that extended period the Allies succeeded in pushing their front, little by little, twelve kilometers ahead on a front of thirty kilometers, owing to their great superiority in artillery and aeroplanes.

"The German army in the west had suffered terrible losses. A large part of the old crack infantry was killed or crippled at the end of 1916. What was left after the bloody field battles of 1914 and 1915 was torn to pieces by the unparalleled expenditure of artillery ammunition at Verdun and the Somme.

"What was left was of middle quality or below average. And those shaken troops were perturbed when they left the battlefield of the Somme. The overwhelming preponderance of the Western Powers in the technical field had destroyed the belief in victory and created a feeling of inferiority, had caused the view that the war was lost beyond hope and, thereby, sowed the seed of cowardice.

"Flushed with victory the Entente generals neglected to conceal their offensive plans; they did not care any longer to surprise the Germans and save the German High Command sufficient time to prepare for the defense. The situation of the German armies was considered hopeless by the military leaders of the Western Powers.

"On April 9 the storm broke loose on both sides of Scarpe after short but vehement preparations by artillery. On several points the enemy, owing to his tanks, could break through the lines of the German infantry. Such German units as maintained their positions were surrounded and collapsed. The English infantry waves flowed ahead to the German artillery positions, but came suddenly to a halt when they reached the limit of the range of the British artillery.

"Just as in the previous year at the Somme, the enemy had penetrated to open territory. No more considerable obstacles had to be overcome. But the English had not profited from their past mistakes and remained inactive until German reserve divisions could be rushed to the gap. The battle lasted until the early part of May, but the attackers could not add any new successes to those of the first day.

"A final installment of Capt. Ritter's book will be printed in The New York Herald next Sunday.

BOY RANGERS HAVE WORLD-WIDE FIELD

"RANGERS form and scout build" is the tentative slogan being considered by the Boy Rangers of America, which, organized in Montclair by Emerson Brooks, president and chief guide, in 1914, has grown and grown, but so quietly and naturally that many parents of boys are not yet aware of it. It now numbers, after eight years of service, some 50,000 members throughout this country, and is constantly multiplying affiliations in Europe and, indeed, all over the world. The aim is one of preparation for entrance into the Boy Scout organization of world-wide fame and influence, but in addition there are other subsidiary aims that are nevertheless extremely valuable.

As the Ranger's training covers the work between the ages of 8 and 12, and is based fundamentally on the twelve famous scout rules it will be understood what a fund of trained material the scout troops everywhere are able to draw on.

The honorary president is Gen. Leonard Wood; honorary vice-presidents are Hon. Charles Evans Hughes and Senator J. S. Freelinghuysen. The Farmers Loan and Trust Company of New York is trustee for the endowment fund.

It is the opinion of Mr. Brooks and Charles E. Hawkes, who holds up the founder's arms as Aaron did those of Moses, that the appeal of the Rangers' ethics, drawn from Indian sources, is universal among boys of America, and similar appeal is made to primal instincts in the hearts of other races. The "good medicine," tribal names, symbols, etc., being drawn from the finest things of Indian culture, religion, etc.—loyalty, reverence among others—can be called on with unfailing response among our boys.

"Our work is formative," said Mr. Hawkes, "and it does not assume more than it is able to perform. In the plastic period of youth up to twelve immense results are possible yet we recognize that what we do is similar to what the artisans do when they prepare for the sculptor a block of marble. They 'rough out' the design, the sculptor receiving it from their hands and finishing the single figure or the group and has ample time for detail.

"We purpose to make our Rangers honest, loyal, sturdy and self-reliant. When they pass from us into the Boy Scouts, as is the common practice, they represent the marble which has been prepared for the sculptor. Or dropping metaphors, the boys are now ready for character development. And this is what the scouts start in to do.

"It is a common saying that after a boy gets out of leading strings he is a little savage. Well, that may account for his hero worship and his quick absorption of the best of the tradition in Indian history. He is at the age of eight bound to run with a gang of some kind, being a natural 'gangster,' and the wise guide tries to direct him into a good 'gang.'"

In the words of the Ranger handbook the effort of the organization is toward the formation of good habits and building of character, beginning at the age when the boy is most impressionable. When boys work together, under a competent leader (and there is always an adult guide for each group who has two assistants), great progress is apt to be made in stand-

CHIEF GUIDE



EMERSON BROOKS

ards of conduct and habits of helpfulness. All boys love all things Indian and in organizing the Rangers this universal trait has been taken full advantage of.

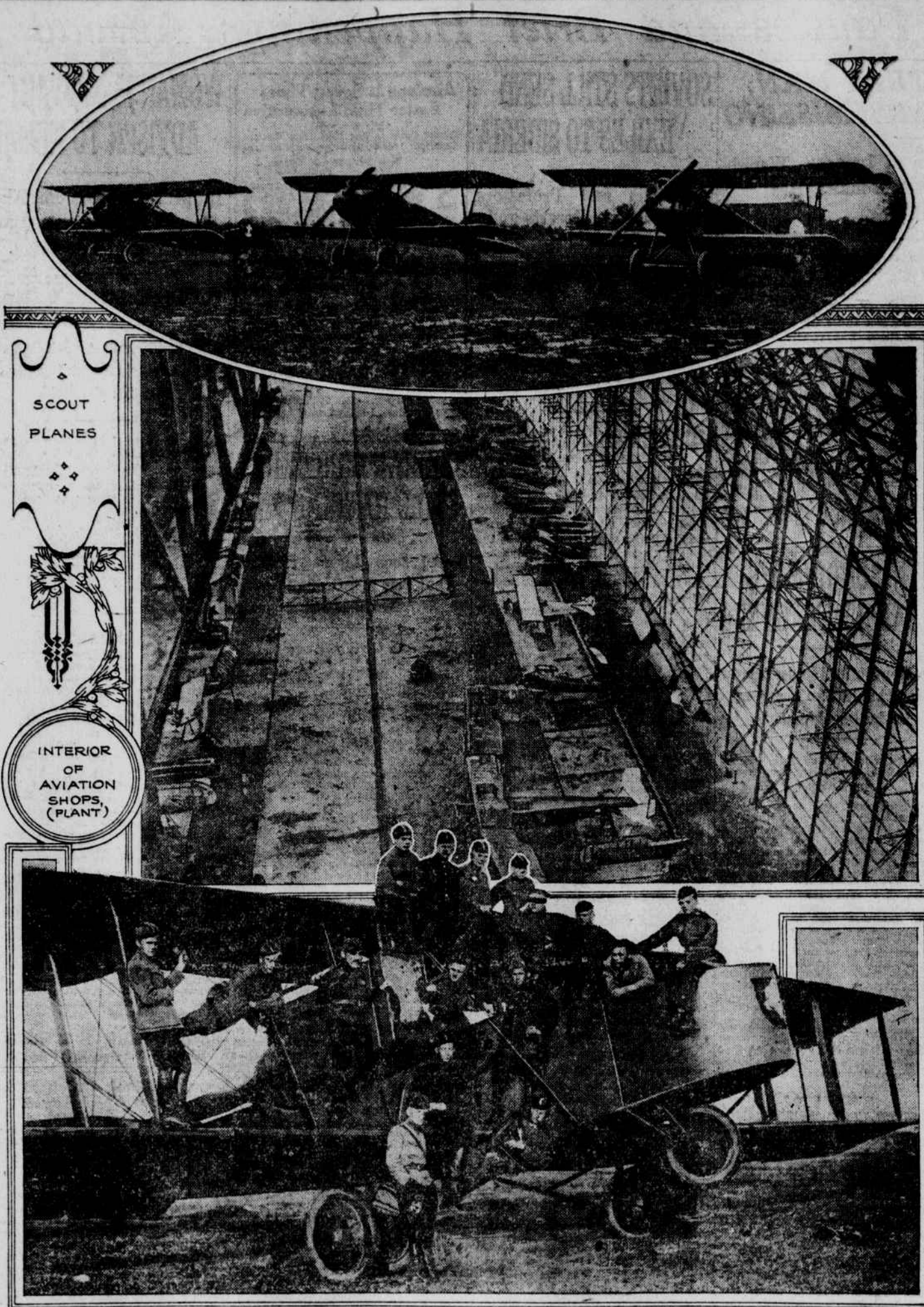
No names of tribes or customs are invented, but historical Indian names are used, there being about eighteen or twenty in each tribal division, such as the Sioux, Crow, Blackfoot and Pawnee. From these the guide selects one or more tribes to become lodge members and all names used in this membership are authentic. A combination of tribes in a local organization is a lodge, and a group of lodges is called a council lodge. Each tribe has a first and a second chief; a lodge of two or more tribes may have a sachem.

In addition there are Indian runners, flag bearers, wampum keepers and medicine men. Whoever remembers his own boyhood will appreciate what weight there is in these symbolic names. As Mr. Brooks smilingly said: "Every red blooded American boy responds to the fascination of Indian lore." And in the eight years that have passed since the inauguration of this movement the Chief Guide has had universal confirmation of this statement.

"The wampum paid in by each lodge member," said Mr. Brooks, "is a cent a week and it will be obvious why this is required and why it is made a custom since habits of regularity in business dealing must early be inculcated. In this connection I remember a new member who brought me 25 cents in order to pay for twenty-five weeks in advance. Of course I refused to take it, as that would stultify what we were aiming at—regularity of payment. It took only a few words to explain to the boy the meaning of the weekly wampum and what he would gain in character by following the prescribed routine."

CHIEF OF LITHUANIA'S AIR FORCE TELLS OF FUTURE AERIAL CAMPAIGN

LITHUANIA'S UP TO DATE FLYING EQUIPMENT, MEN AND MACHINES



SCOUT PLANES

INTERIOR OF AVIATION SHOPS (PLANT)

"THE BIG PLANE"

Even a Military Man Is Appalled, He Says, by Vision of What May Take Place

By CAPT. FRANCIS M'CULLAGH, Special Correspondence to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

KOVNO, Sept. 15.

IT is not generally realized that Lithuania is a very important country from the aerial point of view, forming, as it does, a link between Russia and Germany. Lithuania realizes this fact herself, so that she has equipped herself with an excellent air force, and is busily training young military airmen on one of the best aerodromes that I have ever seen. It is situated at a distance of about half a mile from Kovno, and not more than ten minutes by motor car from the center of the town, so that in respect of accessibility it is perhaps the handiest aerodrome in the world.

The Lithuanian Air Marshal is Gen. Kravcevicus, who was formerly in the Imperial Russian Service, and is a really great expert, not only in the organization of aerial work but also in the actual leading of a squadron and the air. He has over a hundred machines (Potters, Handley Pages and other English as well as some German makes, mostly with Rolls-Royce engines), a thousand men in all, and every kind of supply needed for his work. The young Lithuanian aviators whom he is training seem in the last degree fit.

When I visited the aerodrome yesterday, by kind permission of the Lithuanian Minister of Defense, Gen. Kravcevicus received me courteously, allowed me to go up in a machine, and directed one of his airmen to perform for my edification every possible kind of stunt, of which "looping the loop," and performing the "falling leaf" trick were the simplest. After watching him performing several hundred feet up, I got the impression that that particular avia or could not fall, for

he went upside down; he flew with the wings at right angles to the ground instead of parallel to it; he spun like a top; he circled; he did, in short, everything that the ordinary man would imagine to be fatal. Yet he is only a young pupil who began flying about a month ago.

All the pupils who can fly are kept very busy every day save Sunday. At present they are bombing various marks in the sandy plain on the banks of the Niemen, near the American Monastery of Mons Pacis, and in this work they are extraordinarily accurate. To start with, they are very fit physically, for in the quiet, agricultural country you get an inexhaustible supply of healthy lads with great physical strength, perfect eyesight, and perfect nerves. It takes a year and a half to turn out a Lithuanian airman, six months in theoretical study, six months in mixed theory and practice, and six months in intensive practical training. Any young officer who, after a year at the work, shows signs of lagging behind, is at once got rid of, for the Air Marshal wants only the keenest of the keen.

All Flyers Are Experts

With Camera and Bomb

It may seem ridiculous to write at such length about the air force of such a small country as Lithuania, but owing to the high reputation of General Kravcevicus as an Air Marshal in the Russian service and to the unusual excellence of the young human material now at his disposal, as well as to the peculiarly favorable situation of Lithuania for air work, the progress of aviation in this country deserves to be watched with sympathy and interest. All the Lithuanian airmen are, of course, expert photographers, and in case of a Polish invasion—the only thing to be feared—the Lithuanian army will have no need for cavalry scouts as all the scouting can be done by air, from which messages can be flashed to the central wireless station at Kovno. Moreover, the bombing which such a large air force could carry out on the advancing Poles would, when the efficiency of the Lithuanian infantry and artillery is taken into consideration, make the success of such an advance very problematical.

A short conversation which I had with the General after coming down myself from a spin among the clouds, made it clear to me that he not only keeps up to date in his profession but that he studies very closely the development of military aviation everywhere. To condense his remarks to me on this subject:

"The potentialities of the airplane for war have been greatly increased since 1918 both in the improvements made in the machine itself and in the vastly increased power of the bombs which it carried. Bombardment from airplanes can now replace bombardment from artillery, and the former is impossible to guard against for there is no shelter from it. Aerial explosives of a strength far greater than was ever dreamt of in the last war can easily penetrate the deepest subterranean chambers and cause the can seriously impede an enemy's mobilization, and such attack on a grand scale will be a feature of every future war. It will even be a feature of every naval war; and battleships will be as much worried by airplanes overhead as by submarines underneath.

Britain Has Progressed

In Aerial Sea Warfare

"France has since the armistice greatly extended her service of commercial airplanes, but from all I can learn England, despite the complaints of the London press, has really made great progress in research and experimental work connected with aerial warfare and especially with aerial warfare at sea. France has made no progress in this direction, at least no progress to be compared to that which England has made quietly and unostentatiously made; though the laudatory accounts of her achievements which appear almost daily in the Daily Mail, the Times, the Morning Post and other English newspapers might give the impression that France has made gigantic progress while England has made none at all.

"Germany, despite the limitations imposed on her aerial development by the Treaty of Versailles, has made greater progress than France in aerial research work for military purposes, and America, apparently, has also made great progress. All the nations I have mentioned suffer from want of money for purposes of military experiment, and from a general reaction against war and everything connected with it; but the development of aviation is certain to go on, and important discoveries are certain to take place, and by this development and those discoveries military aviation is certain to benefit.

"Already the airplane as a military weapon is vastly more efficient than the airplane of 1914. It now flies in all sorts of weather; it can carry more and deadlier bombs; instead of being more or less a toy it is an indispensable part of a modern army.

Women and Children Will Bear the Brunt, and Nations May Be Wiped Out

It replaces cavalry for reconnaissance and is not only a most valuable adjunct for artillery in spotting enemy positions but may almost at times replace artillery in shelling forts and entrenched infantry.

Fearful Possibilities

Of Future Aerial Wars

"Even a military man is sometimes appalled by the vision of what great aerial navies may do in future wars. What is to prevent them, for example, from burning whole cities, ravaging whole countries, poisoning with gas great numbers of civilians far behind the battle line? Millions of soldiers entrenched at a frontier and forming there an impassable line, may find that country overwhelmed by flames and bombs and clouds of poison gas with the result that the war will be lost without their losing a battle, or a gun or a man. For an army is useless if the country which sent it out to fight has itself gone to blazes.

"There is danger indeed that the brunt of future wars will fall almost entirely on the civilian population behind the lines, hundreds of miles behind the lines. The soldier with his head in a gas mask and his whole person immersed in a dugout provided with a periscope and covered with fifteen layers of sandbags may suddenly find that no news, ammunition or food is coming from the rear, and when he goes to the trench telephone to inquire what has happened he will be told that his cities have been burned, his civilian relatives killed, his munition works blown up, his food supplies poisoned or destroyed and his country wiped off the map.

"In that case there will be a reversal of the usual conditions and it will be the women and children who will bear the brunt of war instead of the men; and if anything ever succeeds in abolishing war altogether it will be this terrible development of it, a development to which modern warfare is clearly tending."

GIBBS DOUBTS ERA OF PEACE

Says the British Empire Must Soon Decide Whether It Is to Stand Alone as Bulwark Against the Rising Tides of Color

By SIR PHILIP GIBBS.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

LONDON, Oct. 7.

THE question must be asked and if possible answered whether the British Empire can count in any way upon her allies in the great war during the coming conflicts which will tax her strength to the uttermost. For it is idle to believe that we are approaching an era of peace and world settlement. All my hopes in that direction I confess have withered away after an anxious study of the present situation in most of the countries of Europe and in Asia Minor.

I am forced reluctantly to believe that for some years ahead, perhaps for many, such institutions as the League of Nations and all they represent in the hopes of idealists everywhere will be challenged by the forces of disorder and strife and by armed Powers deaf to all arguments of arbitration and conciliation. The red hot flames that have been lighted in the Near East by Mustapha Kemal and his Turks have already touched a long train of explosives stretching away through Palestine, Persia and India, where Western ideas and desires do not prevail and cannot be maintained except by authority backed ultimately by armed forces acting as police.

It is upon Great Britain, above all, that the burden of authority falls most heavily because of her immense guardianship of the East. It is not an exaggeration to say that the British people are the main bulwark of the world against the rising tide of color which is menacing the white races. But in many other ways Great Britain has a vast and perilous responsibility.

Britain the Arbitrator

Of Vanquished and Victors

Leaving ideals together on one side—and to mention them is always to raise the accusation of hypocrisy—it is certain that for trade interests and economic life alone England stands for a peaceful reorganization and settlement of Europe and is an arbitrator between the defeated peoples of the great war and their victors. That policy is surrounded by inevitable dangers to old alliances and friendships for an arbitrator who holds the balance between passionate interests and deadly hates is not going to acquire much love for himself on either side.

These difficulties are going to increase. Nothing is settled anywhere. The question of German reparations still remains as an unsolved problem, though for a little while it has been shelved. The question of interrelated debts between France and England will come to the fore again; hideous old plague spots that seemed to have been healed by the victory of the allies have broken out afresh.

The coming back of the Turk to Europe as far as the River Maritza on the frontier of Bulgaria will again arouse racial hatreds and fears and vendettas of the Bulgar and Serb and Turk, with Russia and Germany and France pulling the wires from behind. Already there are Ministers of France who acclaim the restitution of Turkey as a French victory against England. One of them has stated that France must regain her ascendancy on the Rhine as she has just done on the Maritza.

Britain Stands Alone

For Peace in Europe

It is clear, then, that British policy in Europe, well as in Asia, will be put to the most supreme test of wisdom and strength, and there is conviction among the English people that this ordeal will find them utterly alone. Whatever may be the blame given to English statesmen for supporting Greek claims to Smyrna and ignoring the growing power of the Turkish Nationalists until they came down like tigers upon defenseless communities of Christians after the Greek defeat—personally I think they were guilty of incredible folly—it is hard to acquit the French of unfriendly action in withdrawing their troops from the neutral zone around Constantinople at a time when British troops were ordered to defend the freedom of the straits.

France had pledged her word to the necessity of keeping those straits open, yet she refused to lend a man or gun to join in their defense. Meanwhile British regiments, guns, airplanes and warships were being rushed to the Near East, not as guardians of Europe in this gateway to the East. The cost of that military action is already heavy. It will fall upon the British taxpayer, who is already sweating under his load and selling his home treasures to pay his income tax.

If it is only the beginning of extensive military operations costing large sums of blood as well as money the citizens of Great Britain may be asked to bear impossible burdens and may decide that it is better to shelve some of their responsibilities. What will happen then to Europe and to the British white civilization? It is the German people who guaranteed the German banks so that Belgium should get her payments and Germany be saved from a financial breakdown that would have ruined France. Is it England who must always take these risks alone? It is clear to me that she cannot do so.

There must come a time when arithmetic will answer the question in the negative. The British people are already retreating against this increasing expenditure, and from all classes there is loud protest against any action demanding life or money for its fulfillment. They are determined to avoid war at all costs on issues which are not utterly vital. There will be upheaval in England if that determination is thwarted for it is the most terrific reason. But England's policy of peace is impossible

If she stands alone and still less if she is challenged and thwarted in that policy by those who were her friends. The plain man in England has a bone to pick with France, for the reason that the pro-Turkish sympathies of France went so far that they became anti-European and the action of the enemy was something like a stab in the back to Great Britain and to the young British soldiers in the trenches facing the Turk, and not too numerous. Mustapha Kemal would not have dared play so arrogant a part if England, France and Italy had presented a united front both before and after the destruction of Smyrna. It was partly England's fault that that did not happen, but it was lamentable, anyhow, to say the least of it, that the French Government tore up the treaty of Sevres, which they had signed, and made a separate treaty with Mustapha Kemal without any consultation or agreement with Great Britain or any attempt in that direction.

Europe Must Ultimate

or Face Ultimate Ruin

There is one enormous lesson to be learned from these humiliating and tragic events. Europe must stand together in the face of any common menace or suffer further humiliation, and in my judgment ultimate ruin; for the British Empire, strong though it still is, will be unable to make peace prevail or to maintain authority and order east and west if it is deserted and stands alone. And without peace there will be no health in Europe and no recovery. Asia waits for Europe's weakness. Japan is watching. Russia is active.

There are caldrons seething in the underworld. It is urgent that France and Great Britain should settle their differences with each other and with Germany and play the part of good Europeans. The hostility of France to England on many points of policy is so acute that such hope seems distant and I am bound to say that France has not played the game as well as we might have expected after such great sacrifices together. It is needless to add that every Frenchman thinks the same thing of England.

But what of America in all this? Is the United States so utterly aloof from world interests that she will not lift a little finger to help us or throw the weight of her influence by any word of friendship and advice to the side of those who work for peace? There are Americans who tell me so, and recent acts like the Fordney tariff seem to point to an American policy of exclusion. I utterly refuse to believe that I am convinced in my soul that if the British Empire has to put up a fight against fate on the side of world order and for interests which are not selfish but universal, the American people may be counted on. I am certain that if the British people are hard pressed in a struggle for civilization against anarchy and for the Western World against the East, the United States will answer her call with the full strength of her power. It may come to that.

Indeed, I think it is only the United States that can prevent many of these dangers ahead. But associating herself, not in a military way but by moral pressure with the forces of peace in Europe, with the claims of justice and equity and with diplomatic arbitration, America can even now help enormously. By standing silent and aloof she will not be a friend of Europe but an enemy, and that I cannot believe is in the heart of the American people.

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Start Next Year's Garden Now

North, South, East, West, autumn is best to begin next year's home vegetable garden. Nature is never idle, even when the ground is hard frozen, and our efforts should be directed to aiding natural agencies. The greatest good can be accomplished by improving the soil and preparing it for growing bumper crops of potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes, beans, beets and other vegetables next season, says the United States Department of Agriculture.

At present many of our garden crops are maturing and may be cleaned off the land. In many parts of the North it is now too late to plant anything on this vacant land, except rye, barley or some other crop to improve the soil. Some of the most successful gardeners follow the practice of sowing rye on every foot of garden soil that becomes available. The roots of the rye spread through the soil and pick up every choice bit of plant food they can find. Next spring when the ground is spaded or plowed these same roots form a network of fibrous material which quickly decays and forms new plant food for the garden crops to feed upon. Don't let it get more than two or three inches high next spring before it is turned under. Other crops will give the same results, but rye is one of the most practical.

Spading or plowing early in the autumn and leaving them lying in a rough state over winter is also a good practice. Heavy soils are broken up by the action of frost but care should be taken that they do not wash away. Sandy and all light soils are liable to wash or blow away during the winter if left loose and exposed and for this reason should be kept covered either by a green crop or by a heavy coating of manure.

Nothing beats good stable manure for improving the soil of a garden. Manure is good to plow under in the autumn and it is good as a top dressing over the soil after plowing. Manure prevents the washing and adds fertility. As soon as the crop is off, plow the ground and give it a heavy coat of manure. The remnants can be turned under in the spring.